

10th EDITION

DECEMBER 1976.



'free radio focus'



Greetings for
Christmas and
the New Year

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN UND EIN
GLÜCKLICHES NEUES



Joyeux Noël et bonne année

Buon Natale, e
Capo D'Anno.

Inside:
Radio Rainbow story,
Leicester pirates,
QSL Cards, logbook,
news etc.....

PRETTIGE KERSTDAGEN EN
GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

FREE RADIO NEWS

Times=GMT.(For CEST +1hr.)

Caroline is going off at 11.00 on Friday 10/12/76 from 1562kHz, 192m, & returning at 11.00 on Saturday 11/12/76 on 259m, 1187kHz where they will broadcast during the day as well as at night, on 259 24 hours a day!! R. Mi-Amigo which previously used 259m during the day will presumably change to 312m, 962kHz where tests have been carried out, 312m was used in '74 by R. Atlantis very successfully with only 3kW. We are not sure what the powers will be but suppose Mi-Amigo will have the 50kW and it'll change to 259 at night while Caroline, 10kW, during day.

Mebo Ltd., say that they have sold the Mebo II to an African country (as yet un-named). The Dutch government gave the new owner the deadline of 18/11 for the ship to leave Holland, but (suprise, suprise) the deadline has been extended to December 12th. The Swiss version of the MOA came into force in September.

Trippers Lost! A boat trip to the Mi-Amigo on 7/11 got lost in thick fog on it's return journey and ran aground. When the boat didn't arrive on land by it's usual schedule a message was sent to alert the Walton-On-The-Naze coastguards. The lifeboat found the stranded boat, "The Corona" (owned by William Ord) about two miles off Jaywick. When the boat finally arrived under tow to land (at approx' 2am) police boarded the boat and questioned the passengers. The coastguards were understandably upset because the trip was organised at the time of year when the weather conditions are poor and fog was forecast.

The trip's organiser, Mr. David Hutson was not onboard at the time. Britain Radio Int' was visited by three HomO officials although the operator didn't answer and after announcing themselves on behalf of Wireless services they left, after about 5-10 minutes. A few days later another official visited him and asked if he had anything which could be the possible cause of TV Interference heard within 50 yards of his house. The operator pretended to be ignorant of the subject & the final explanation was that he was realigning his receiver with a signal generator but out of ignorance he left it connected to the socket, at this he seemed relieved and informed the operator that this would radiate a signal especially as his aerial was an efficient 48m band dipole, he also informed the op' that they had tried monitoring for the interference but with no success and he was satisfied with the explanation and put this down in his report! Meanwhile if a suitable location can be found in time, BRI will be on over the X-mas period with a new 1Kw transmitter!

R. Caroline North raided. Landbased R. Caroline North were raided by GPO officials on Sunday 26/9 at 11.10BST. Police & GPO men raided the home of R. Caroline North at 34 Anchor Avenue, Darwen. The raiders consisted of two police constables, a sergeant, two plain clothed detectives, a photographer and two GPO engineers. The station did not go on the air at 11.00 as scheduled owing to a fault in the power supply. They were most probably waiting for the broadcast to start but after realising that there was no transmission they entered by the front door with their search warrant & they stated that they believed there was a medium wave transmitter on the premises used for illegal purposes. They came up to the studio & found Pete Chicago repairing some equipment, they took a photograph immediately. They also took photo's of all the equipment including transmitter, record decks, tape machine, mixer, aerial lead & loading coils. Continued opposite.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

We regret to announce that as from the next edition, no. 11, FRF will be priced at 15p per copy, this is due to the rise in the cost of printing paper, we hope you will agree that it is a reasonable price. More details & new subscription prices see back page.....

Caroline North raid continued.....

..They asked Pete Chicago to line up the transmitter, he told them to get lost, he had no power source, they asked how it worked, he said that they were the brains & they ought to know. They still insisted on it to be lined up & then he told them to "go & get their own bloody car battery." They declined. They asked where he got the tx from, he replied that he found it under some bushes, they kept asking over & over, who? & where? makes this equipment, they were told to get lost & to put it under a microscope & waste more taxpayers money. They asked if he had a license to broadcast, (funny!) He was then formerly charged with owning a tx & equipment for illegal broadcasts. They then tested the tape machine which had Caroline jingles on them. Luckily, they were so interested in the 15w tx that they didn't see the 50w 48mb short wave tx in the corner! Altogether they were there for 1 1/2 hours and as they left they said they'd get a court order for the confiscation of the equipment at a later date. Pete Chicago then said he'd fight for free radio to the very end & even go to prison, meanwhile Caroline North is off the air, but will return with 90watts soon.

Radio Solent City has now increased power on SW to 50w & is presently building a 150w tx also. On Sunday 14/11 Solent City tested on 7450kHz between 14.15 & 14.30.

R. Free Midlands during November transmitted on SW 6275 & 6250kHz, 11.00-13.00, also on MW on Saturday nights, 11pm onwards on 227m.

Alternative R. Leicester is now on 225m MW after testing on 539m, 557 kHz. ARL can be heard from 15.00 on Sundays with dj's-Leon Mitchell, Alec Newman, Barry Lancaster, Buster Brown etc..

Radio Genini were back on the air on Sunday 31/10 with their fourth birthday show! They were on from 10-11.00 on an actual frequency of 6227kHz. This was the first time they had been on since 8/8 this year.

R. Valleri are to start m.w. transmissions in Dublin soon on 1399kHz.

R. Snoopy Int' heard on 21/11 on 6225kHz uses different output powers and their slogan is; "The swinging sound from Scandinavia" and they play mostly soul music. Their address is; PO Box 46, N-6650 Surnadal, Norway.

The raid on R. Gloria Int' has had a devastating effect on free radio in West Germany as the authorities found a lot of addresses of operators at the location, consequently the CLOG folded up, the IBA are having difficulty in continuing and many stations are having to suspend activities for the present time.

QSL Card of the month.

Two qsl cards this month, here's the first one, RADIO GNOME, which operated from Manchester last year. Sent in by Michael Burden.

Radio Gnome

Telepathic Pirate

Radio

Thank you for tuning in to our music and laughter.

6-7th December 1975.

Transmitting for the Post Office's delicate little ears. He!.. He!..

225

P.O. Box 49, Aberdeen,
Scotland.



'Hi-Hello,your'e into the Philly Freeze show on Radio Rainbow!' Another morning in the recording studio for the flea powered FM pirate station doing my rock-n-soul thing.

They say that there is nuth'n new under the sun,but that set up was sump'n else,I'll tell yer!By the time I arrived on the scene things had been running for around six months.First I knew was when John 'phoned me at home asking if I'd like to fill a few slots.'Yeah man I guess so,' I gave gave him,'But I guess your after programmes as well!'

I'm a misfit I don't mind telling yer.I'm a mixed up rock-n-roll surfer soul freak.After a hevvy nite on the Disco gear with plenty of beer on the cabs & decks,I surf straight down the stairs next morning usually wiping out on the bottom rug.With the calender showing a quater past February,year of our Lord Harold Wilson 1973 things weren't too bad with them.I'm no wire & solder monkey,but there were so many FM kits and transmitters around the shops that you couldn't miss.Last count they had nine running at once;four or five in the suburbs of Sheffield,couple in Wakefield,one in Co Durham where I was mis-educated.Can't count neither-now how many is that?Anyway there were a stack of more or less connected stations around.

I guess you could call it entertainment by the people for the people etc etc..'Pro Bono Publico' or 'There is that bony pro slipping into the pub again.'

John was power drunk this time dancing about on the top of every hill and waste tip around.Everywhere there were little green boxed transmitters with cheap & nasty cassette recorders.Frequencies,well anything would do really;mainly between 80 & 115MHz,but hot favourite spot was sandwiched between a local furnace mobile on 87.9 & the 10w spot on our dial,Beeb local Sheffield on eighty eight and an 'alf.Programme inserts were special with things like 'Esco base furnace wants another load sending up'-man we sent 'em one!

Action replays of the day befores programmes could be heard blasting out on the High Street from the radio shop.Once clambered in there over the Rigonda radiogram in the doorway,playing it's usual tune 'Man of Action' by the Les Reed Orchestra,followed by RNI jingles,past the line of ship posters on the wall and over to the counter/assembly line for FM gear.

John was visiting,and had beaten me across there by about five minutes.The coffee was already on the table top,and the youth assistant was scurrying next door to the super for some biscuits;John's pieces of silver in his hand.'Can't stop long today,I'm off to stand & deliver.' "No need freind,use the bog downstairs," came the shout from the studio in the basement.Allan popped his head over the bannister rail & gave a quick smile.Allan LIVED offshore,at least in his mind's eye.His schoolboy mock attitudes let him down a bit though,he didn't seem to have that drive to carry him through.Really good sort to have around though,and always a bit of light relief,like the improvisational art on the Agfa recording tape poster;you know,the one with the bird with the big knokkers.

Things ran on month after month;country & Western shows being made and going by cassette to stations all over the place,including of all places,Scandinavia!Couldn't get enough of it,(Can I sympathise with that feeling!)One station even put the stuff out on shortwave. There were rock-n-roll programmes,rythm & blues,documentaries including one on the police 999 service,even a Mahalia Jackson Evangelical show on Sundays.John himself logged two hundred & fifty hours of programmes over the fourteen months he was on the air.

Continued opposite.

I just lost track of the number of hour and half hour shows I put together for them. It must have run into dozens, I guess. John wanted to get deeper into the community work he had taken up, and every so often we would have a whip round to put something into the hospital wards. I remember once he had helped to get a shortwave receiver bought for one long stay old peoples ward. There was a certain black humour about the situation. Every time an old dear went to that great studio in the sky, there was a little something from the will, or from relatives to help with extra gear. A TV set followed, then another, then a big collective effort to get a mini coach to take out invalid patients on day trips.

'What we need is publicity,' John said one day. Several ideas were kicked around and we came up with a HOUSEWIFE OF THE YEAR award, based on good community work from some glamorous housewife. The idea was a fair success. The BIG action started later in the year when our membership was on the up & up. 'We are going for the big one this time,' said John, over the phone to me one afternoon. 'Did you know the IBA are inviting tenders for Sheffield & Rotherham in about eighteen months time? I answered I didn't, but soon had the details given.

'What about putting up for a subscription based community station for Sheffield' I laughed. 'That's just what we're going to do' replied John. 'You must be joking man.' 'STRAIGHT UP I'M NOT.' 'I'm booking the Sheffield City Hall and YOU are doing the Disco' on the promotional night this October.

Autumn came, the days mellowed, and the nights grew long. Soon it was time. Allen gave a stack of giveaways for spot prizes, the flaming 'Housewife' trophy wasn't ready, but a substitute one was borrowed. Catering was marvellous, courtesy of Hagenbachs, the bakers & butchers. The phonographic licence was in order, and there was a big box of champagne perry to burst upon the scene. Advertising wasn't bad, apart from certain doubts expressed by messrs. Sheffield Newspapers Limited about taking the ads. It could be just co-incidental that they were running up to their Radio Hallam promotional activities. We got one smashing ad and one that was useless, hidden away under "Collinson's dancing classes for the absolute beginner," somewhere buried on page nnn. The night was a qualified success, & we all had a helluva good time.

The bombshell fell about six weeks later with the announcement in press and over BBC R. Sheffield, 'The Independant Broadcasting Authority are inviting tenders for the Sheffield & Rotherham area.' WE WEREN'T READY.....

I sometimes wonder what would have happened if the schedule had not been hurried through by governmental pressures. That eighteen months may have made a big difference, particularly with a good merchant banker backing, POWER TO THE PEOPLE MAN!

Where are we now?, spread all around I guess. John is doing voluntary work with a hospital broadcasting organisation, so is another member. Our housewife of the year is daydreaming of her brief day of glory. Allen's shop went bust, and he is now in another similar business, leading a quiet life. Two of the lads are with the rubber soled shoe brigade, running up roofs for tv aerial people. Me? - I'm a bank manager, what else.

A book of short stories is now being published by the author of this article. Copies are available to readers and can be obtained for £2.00 via this magazine.

AIR mag' out now from FRC-Scotland. Features on Caroline, World Music Radio and an article on the state of broadcasting in Scotland by Ian Anderson + much more! 40p+large s.a.e. from; AIR mag', FRC Scotland, NBPS, 52, St. Enoch Sq., Glasgow G1 4AA, Scotland. (PO's to 'FRC Scotland' or coins taped to card please.)

White on red Caroline badges. 10p coins or blank PO's + sae.
Legal Free Radio stickers. Send sae for list to:- F.R.S., PO Box 123, READING RG3 5JU.

Welcome to this part of the story. 1974 was to prove to be the biggest yet for clandestine activity in Leicester. The story begins in March '74 with a meeting of the IRL (Independent Radio Leicester) operators and certain other people. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of the Leicester Transmitter of Independent Radio (LTIR), two stations were to use the facilities of the LTIR, these stations being, Independent Radio Leicester and a new station, Delta Radio. Transmitters of the LTIR were one mw tx, 25watts power on 1322 kHz, on short wave a 10w tx on 6225kHz and a VHF tx of 10w on 89.5 MHz.

Delta Radio was the first station heard in April '74 on 89.5MHz VHF with transmissions on Sunday afternoons between 3-5pm. This was followed by IRL in May '74 on 227m on Sunday afternoons between 3-4.30pm, IRL was also broadcasting on 6225kHz. IRL of course had previously been on the air in 1972. Transmissions carried on as normal every week with IRL having more success on mw than Delta R. was having on VHF. The GPO first became interested in the activities of the LTIR during August when IRL was raided and lost all the mw gear which was a blow to the LTIR as money was running short. Delta R. continued broadcasts on VHF despite the lack of response from the public. During September the LTIR were approached by another team of interested people. These people wanted to run a rock station on VHF for the students at Leicester University, and so yet another station broadcast through the LTIR, Radio UFO. This station lasted only a month as damage was done to the FM tx, but whilst R. UFO was on the air they broadcast some very interesting programmes such as documentaries and discussions. So once again the LTIR was down to one station Delta R. still broadcasting on Sunday afternoons. It was suggested that Delta R. should move onto SW but it was decided against this. In October they changed their format to top 40 from the original format of top 40, oldies and albums, but even this change didn't bring any reaction from the public and so Delta R. decided to commence broadcasts on mw 221m, this they did in November '74 and within weeks the mail came rolling in. The address at this time was LTIR, 18 Humberstone Rd., Leicester. Delta R. had now adopted a format of album tracks and this seemed to prove popular, in December yet another station joined the LTIR, Radio Patricia and was heard on Saturdays, 12noon-1.30pm on 221m mw.

The GPO raided Delta R. in January '75 after the station had been on the air for only 25 minutes, this resulted in the loss of more mw equipment. At this time R. Patricia had also left the air. Delta R. was back in February '75 but this time on 227m mw and on Saturday nights and the response to these broadcasts were very good and reports were received from as far away as West Germany but this new found success was short lived, in March '75 the GPO raided Delta R. yet again but this time they caught one of the engineers, Bob Owens. And so, as money was very short the LTIR decided to cease broadcasts for the time being. In the next part of the story I will look at the Delta R. court case and the rebirth of the LTIR. LOVE & PEACE, The Captain.

Details of the LTIR.

Independent R. Leicester. 227m. mw. 6225kHz. sw. Sunday, 3-4.30pm.
dj's-Dave Dean, Dave Ross, Mike Allen, Tony Black & Alan Dunckley.

Delta R. 89.5MHz VHF. 221m. mw & 227m. mw. Sunday afternoons. 3-5pm. 1-3.30pm. Saturday, 11pm-3am. dj's-Mark Roger (also R. Europe Int'), Robin Johns (also REI), Captain Morgan (also REI), Ross McKenzie, Jeff Edwards, Dave Dean, Peter King, Bob Owen, Alan Dunckley, Tony Black, The Sunshine Kid & Sergeant Jay.

R. UFO. Saturdays. 10pm-midnight. 89.5MHz VHF. dj's-Carl, Robbie.

Continued on p. 8.

LOGBOOK. Key; E=English/England, D=Dutch/Holland, G=German, WG=West Ger-7
 many, P=Pop music, A=Album tracks, S=Soul music, T=Traditional music.
 WL=Where logged, Fo=Format, DX=DX/Free Radio news, L=Letters.

Station**Date***Freq***Time, GMT***S:I:N:P:O:***Fo***WL***

1) R. Johnny Walker...	30/10..	1322	00.53	3:4:3:3:3:..	D/P..	Sw..
2) Centr. Omr. Apeldon.	31/10..	1330	01.10	4:4:4:3:3:..	D/T..	Sw..
3) R. Appolo Int'.....	31/10..	6259	09.05	3:3:2:3:3:..	?.....	E...
4) R. Seemove.....	31/10..	6200	09.47	3:3:3:2:2:..	E/P..	Sw..
5) R. Gemini Int'.....	31/10..	6227	10.00	4:4:3:4:4:..	E/DX..	E...
6) R. Jackie. London...	31/10..	1331	11.18	2:2:3:3:2:..	E/P..	E...
7) R. Valleri.....	31/10..	6260	11.20	3:2:3:3:2:..	E/P..	E...
8) Britain R. Int'.....	31/10..	6220	11.21	3:3:3:2:3:..	E/P..	Sw..
9) R. Europe Int'.....	31/10..	6275	11.32	3:3:3:3:3:..	E/P..	E...
10) Skyport R.....	31/10..	6290	11.40	3:4:4:3:3:..	E/P..	Sw..
11) Frick R.....	31/10..	6225	17.22	4:4:3:4:4:..	E, G...	Sw..
12) Jacky the Killer...	6/11..	1331	23.02	4:4:3:4:4:..	E, G, D	Sw..
13) R. Hawaii.....	7/11..	1322	00.20	3:4:3:3:3:..	E/P, T	E...
14) Tom Cat R.....	7/11..	1331	00.30	3:4:3:3:3:..	E, D/P	E...
15) R. Casablanca.....	7/11..	6247	09.20	3:3:4:4:3:..	D.....	Sw..
16) R. Valleri.....	7/11..	6260	09.30	3:3:3:4:3:..	E/P..	E...
17) R. Valentine Int'...	7/11..	6250	10.00	5:4:4:4:4:..	E, G/P	Sw..
18) R. Jackie.....	7/11..	1331	11.23	3:2:3:3:3:..	E/P..	E...
19) ABC England.....	7/11..	6270	11.30	4:4:4:4:4:..	E/DX..	E...
20) R. Free Midlands...	7/11..	6265	12.20	3:4:3:3:3:..	E/O...	E...
21) R. Solent City.....	13/11..	6280	13.00	3:4:3:3:3:..	E/A...	E...
22) Jacky the Killer...	13/11..	1331	23.35	4:3:3:3:3:..	E, G, D	E...
23) R. Atlantis.....	14/11..	6239	09.20	4:3:4:3:3:..	E/P..	Sw..
24) R. Valleri.....	14/11..	6260	09.20	3:3:3:3:3:..	E/P..	E...
25) R. Casablanca.....	14/11..	6225	09.57	4:4:3:4:4:..	D.....	Sw..
26) Skyport R.....	14/11..	6210	10.54	3:4:3:3:3:..	IDs...	Sw..
27) R. Solent City.....	14/11..	6280	11.00	4:4:3:4:4:..	E/P..	E...
28) R. Free Midlands...	14/11..	6250	12.05	2:3:3:3:2:..	E/P..	E...
29) London Music R....	14/11..	1358	12.05	3:4:4:4:4:..	E/P..	E...
30) Jacky the Killer...	21/11..	1325	00.20	4:5:3:3:3:4	E, D, G/O	E...
31) Tom Cat R.....	21/11..	1322	00.40	3:5:3:3:3:..	E/P, A	E...
32) R. Snoopy Int'.....	21/11..	6225	09.30	4:4:3:3:4:..	E/S...	Sw..
33) R. Valleri.....	21/11..	6260	09.50	3:2:3:3:3:..	E/P..	E...
34) R. Casablanca.....	21/11..	6225	10.10	4:4:4:4:4:..	D.....	Sw..
35) R. Solent City.....	21/11..	6280	13.06	4:3:4:4:4:..	E.....	E...
36) R. Johnnie Walker...	27/11..	1322	00.20	4:5:3:4:4:..	E, D, G/O	E...
37) R. Solent City.....	28/11..	6280	10.00	3:3:3:3:3:..	E/O...	E...
38) R. Casablanca.....	28/11..	6225	10.40	3:4:4:3:3:..	D/P..	E...
39) R. Verona.....	28/11..	6235	12.10	2:3:4:3:2:..	D/P..	E...
40) Britain R. Int'...	28/11..	6265	12.10	4:3:4:4:3:4	E/P..	E...
41) ABC England.....	28/11..	6270	12.25	2:3:4:4:2-3	E/P..	E...

Continued Overleaf.

 Identified. 9c) in FRF9 was Skyport R. testing on 6290kHz with no
 announcements but Hindi film music & trumpet fanfares.
 9b) R. Atlantis, c/o IRA, Postfach 512, D-4440 Rheine, West Germany.
 Unidentified. 10a) 31/10, 11.00GMT. 6250kHz. SINPO=3:3:3:3:3: Played
 snippets of heavy music & then went off... 10b) 28/11, 12.10GMT. 6235kHz.
 Dutch announcements, continental pop. (R. Verona? No. 39 in logbook. Ed.)
 Anyone know address of R. Verona, ed?.....

 Free Radio Waves no. 1 out now. SW news, R. Solent City, R. Invicta, off-
 shore news, Tower R. etc... Just 10p+sae from; Flagstones, West Heath
 Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1TA.
 Free Radio Printing Service (non profit making). Stickers, qsl cards,
 fact sheets etc... Also s.w. transmitter crystals. For more details
 send an sae to; Gary Stevens, c/o Kent Place, Norwell, Newark, Notts. Eng.

LOGBOOK continued...

*=Spreading from 6300-6260kHz.

Station**Date***Freq***Time,GMT**S:I:N:P:O:***Fo***WL**

42) R. Jackie.....5/12..1331....09.55.....5:5:5:5:5:..E/P...E...
 43) R. Valentine.....5/12..6250....10.02.....4:4:3:4:4:..E,G/P.E...
 44) Black Shadow R.....5/12..6280*...11.45.....5:5:5:5:5:..E/T...E...
 45) ABC England.....5/12..6270....11.50.....2:4:4:3:3:..E/O...E...
 46) London Music R.....5/12..1358a...12.50.....3:3:4:4:3-2:E/P...E...

Unidentified cont'd...10c)5/12..6220approx'..11.07GMT..SINPO=23422..

Played 4 Status Quo tracks in a row!..10d)5/12..6260-5approx'.....

11.58GMT..SINPO=34423..Played oldies including Barry McGuire, Eddie Cochran, Teenage Opera. One English announcement before E. Cochran!....

Any suggestions to editor please!.....

Addresses;..1)c/o Simon Hendriks, 33 Meerstraat, Emmen, Holland;..2)

Centrale Omroep Apeldoorn, Postbus 77, Raalte, Holland;..3,32)c/o FRL,

PO Box 46, N-6650 Bunnad, Norway;..4,23)Postfach 512, D-4440 Rheine,

FRG;..5)6, Farm Way, Bushey, Watford, Herts., UK;..6,18,42)West Molsey,

Surrey, UK;..7,10,16,24,26,33)134, Eastworth Rd., Chertsey, Surrey, UK;..

..8,20,21,27,28,35,37,40)Kent Place, Norwell, Newark, Notts., NG23 6JX,

U.K.;..9)13, The Chase, Crawley, Sussex, RH10-6HW, UK;..11)Postfach 320

249, D-4000 Dusseldorf, FRG;..12,13,22,30)Postbus 25, Emmercompascuum,

Holland;..14,31)PO Box 47, Oude Pekela, N.E. Holland;..15,25,34,38)

Postbus 428, Almelo, Holland;..17,43)PO Box 1823, D-76 Offenber, FRG;..

19,41,45)42, Arran Close, Cambridge, UK;..29,46)19, Newport Court, London

WC2, UK;..36)Same as no.1;..44)PO Box 77, Raalte, Holland.....

*No.44 in the logbook was on for 5mins with an extremely overmodulat-

ed signal & it blanketed the

whole of the top half of the

48mb from 6300-6260kHz.....

Free Radio Focus apologises

for the absence of photo's as

promised in no.9, we will how-

ever have them starting from

no.11 which will be out at the

beginning of February(to help

us to get over X-mas & the new

year!!) Meanwhile any black &

white photo's of a Free Radio

nature, qsl cards, cuttings, news

& logbooks & articles will be

gratefully accepted. Deadline

for FRF11=Wednesday 26/1/77...

Meanwhile we wish all readers

a verry happy X-mas & a peace-

ful New Year from all here at

FRF!(Thanks to all who sent

cards!)

FRF Ireland NEWSLETTER out now

for 20p+IRC or 3IRC's from;K.

Murray, 53, Charleston Rd., Dublin

6, Ireland. Keep in touch with

the Irish Free Radio scene!

Radio Brief No.7 out in Jan',

19p post included or 2IRC's

from;8, Skardu Rd., Cricklewood,

London NW2 3ER. Info' on off-

shore & BBC, IBA stations.....

PLEASE MENTION FRF WHEN REPLY-

ING TO ALL ADS. THANK-YOU!



RADIO DYNAMITE

BBC to guard transmitters against 'pirate' broadcasts

By PETER KNIGHT, Television and Radio Staff

THE BBC is to tighten up security at all its unmanned transmitters throughout the country to prevent any attempts to hijack its wavelengths by pirate broadcasters.

The move follows an April Fool joke this year, when a Radio One programme was put off the air for half an hour in what is believed to be the first hijacking of a BBC programme.

The transmitter was at Rowridge, Isle of Wight.

A portable transmitter placed with a signal more powerful than the official BBC one was placed close by.

The portable transmitter was connected to a time switch designed to start at the beginning of a record programme presented by John Peel at 11 p.m. The Rowridge transmitter boosts the signals of Radio One on VHF to the Isle of Wight, Southampton and the South of England. But on April 1 it picked up the signal from the portable transmitter and broadcast the pirate programme, which had been recorded on a cassette.

Banned records

The hijackers played pop music including several records on BBC's banned list and interspersed them with a fake advertisement purporting to come from the Metrication Board. It urged people not to delay going metric and threatened them with the demolition of their homes if they did not do so.

It was more than half an hour before the BBC was able to put the illegal programme off the air by increasing the power of their own signal. No one has ever claimed responsibility for the pirate broadcast although it is generally believed to have been the work of students.

In future all programmes broadcast through unmanned transmitters will be closely monitored to ensure they are not interfered with. If interference is detected, the BBC signal will immediately be increased to swamp the illegal broadcast.

Security around the transmitters will also be intensified, for although the hijacking of its programme may have been intended as a joke, the BBC has found nothing funny in it.

It is acutely aware that in the hands of political extremists such broadcasts could cause havoc, though the "pirate" broadcast was itself harmless.

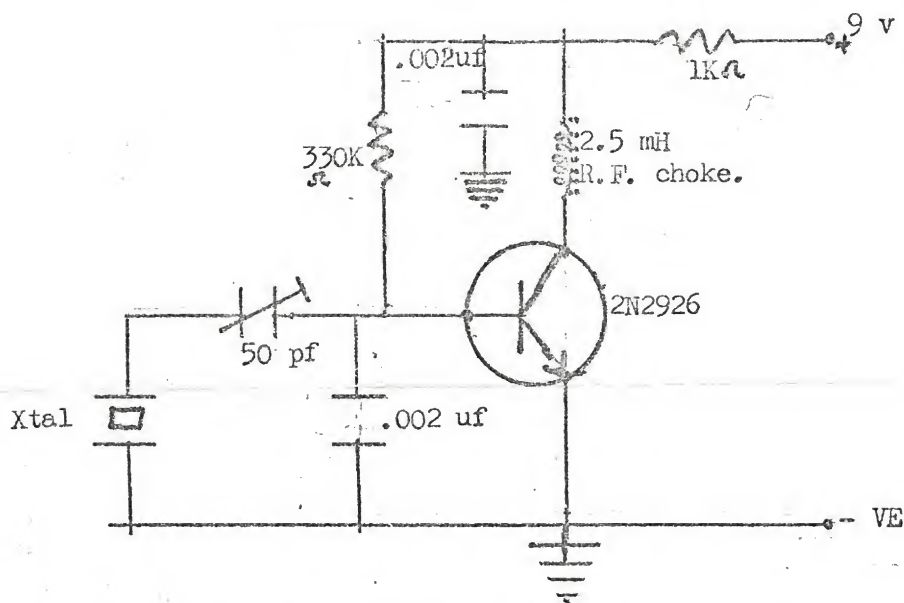
This month's cutting is from 9 The Daily Telegraph and was sent in by John Williams. Any cuttings, old or recent, of a free radio nature, we would like to borrow for possible future use in FRT.

FOCUS NEWSREEL Cont'd.....

Caroline changed freq' from 192 to 259 24hrs a day smoothly. Mi-Amigo now uses 50kW on 192m during the day. At present Caroline uses the low power transmitter on 259m 24hrs a day, but maybe in the near future a way of changing the 50kW tx to 259 after Mi-Amigo closes at 18.00 GMT can be found. Maybe 312m would have been a better choice instead of 192m for Mi-Amigo. The new Mi-Amigo 192 jingles were recorded by a group called 'Octopus.' Two new Caroline dj's are Roger Matthews & Mike Stevens. The L.A. album should be available in record shops in GB by 15/12/76.

X-mas transmissions. BRITAIN R.INT will be on; Boxing Day at 10.30-12.00 on 6265kHz & 15.00-16.00 on 6265kHz. On New Years Day 10.30-12.00 & 16.00-17.00 on both 6265kHz & 6226kHz. (6265=1kW, 6220=50w.)...R.ZODIAC INT' on 6235kHz on X-mas day between 10.00 & 12.00GMT.. R.CELEBRATION(LONDON) on Boxing Day, 1277kHz, 235m for 5hrs....R.JACKIE will be doing their usual 3 day marathon over X-mas on 227m, 1331kHz...LNR will also be doing a marathon X-mas broadcast in the London area on 1358 kHz, 221m..... R.SOLENT CITY on 227m on X-mas Day with 150w. More Solent City news..They have a new 150w short wave transmitter, their test on 7245kHz in Nov' only received one report (from Yorkshire.) In 1977 they hope to transmit television pictures using 405line definition, Channel 6. Synchronised sound will be on 186m mw, (We wish them good luck with that.) Also they'll test in 31 & 25mb's short wave. An 8mm film about Solent City is to be made..... R.Luckey Star is a new mw station on the continent using 150w on 191m, 1570kHz. They will be on; 12/12 & 18/12 & other Sunday mornings from 00.30GMT. QSL cards will verify reports sent to; 13, The Chase, Crawley, Sx. Eng' if 2IRC's are enclosed...A new station, V.P.R.I. is to test on 6310 kHz soon & then on 6265kHz with a folk music format & 10w....More news on the R.Gloria Int' raid. They were raided in a village South East of Bremen, West Germany. The authorities used a grey Mercedes Benz car..... Swinging R.England court case. Three people; D.Taylor, D.Jonas & A.Wright were each fined £30 plus £60 costs between them after being found guilty on 5 charges each at Fakenham on 23/11/76 for operating a transmitter without a licence. The station was raided on 4/7/76 after 14hrs on the air. A transmitter, power supply unit, records & a tape was confiscated. Mr. R. Atkins was prosecuting on behalf of the Home Office. A portable radio belonging to one of the operator's parents was returned.

CRYSTAL CHECKER. STANDARD FREQUENCY MARKER



THIS CIRCUIT WILL OSCILLATE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CRYSTALS, SEVERAL DIFFERANT STYLES OF HOLDERS MAY BE WIRED IN PARALLEL.

IF BEING USED FOR THE SETTING UP ON STANDARD FREQUENCY TRANSMISSIONS THE 50pf CAPACITOR WILL BRING THE CRYSTAL TO ZERO BEAT WITH THAT TRANSMISSION.

Circuit submitted by Les Stewart (BBMS)

Contributors to this edition: (In alphabetical order.) Bengt Ahlqvist, C. Blackbeard, H. Burden, C. Cortez, G. Day, P. Freeze, J. Gribbon, P. Hobbs, M. Jay, S. Leah, C. Martin, C. Midgley, K. Murray, S. Parry, R. Randell, G. Stevans, L. Stewart, D. Orch & J. Williams. Apologies to anyone left out.....

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Unfortunately, due to increased prices in paper etc.. we regret to announce that as from FRF 11, Free Radio Focus will cost 15p. + sae or 3 IRC's. Subscription rates will also be raised and are: For 6 months; £1:40 for U.K. and £1:60 for Europe. (Prices for Subs' include postage, envelopes etc...)

Some copies of FRF9 are still available @10p+sae or 2IRC's.

We'd also like to take this opportunity in apologising for the delays in sending FRF backnumbers 1 & 2 and also the Caroline posters which will have to be altered from 192 & 259 to 259, 24hrs per day, before sending off to be printed, meanwhile advance orders are being taken @ 5p, (size A4!) & sae (or 2 IRC'S)

Attention station operators!

Join FORP, all member stations get FREE use of our mailing address, promotional material (e.g. colour qsl cards) at very reasonable prices etc... Send sae for more details! Membership charge is negligible!! Present members are: R. Europe Int', R. Zodiac Int'. Capitol R in Dublin, R. Lucky Star from the continent on mw, R. 242/249, Station 48, R. Celebration etc.....

This magazine (pages 1-8), except the late news pages (9 & 10) are printed by G.S. Printing Services, Kent Place, Norwell, Newark, Notts, NG23 6JK, England. They can print your stations promo material at very reasonable prices; sae to above address for more details.....

Living Free Radio News published by 'Living FR Society' is available for 20p+sae or 3 IRC's from; PO Box 416, Birmingham B32 2HS, & it contains all the latest FR news, landbased & offshore.....

HERRY X-MAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FRF READERS FROM ALL AT FRF!!!

DEADLINE FOR FRF 11; Wednesday 26/1/77. FRF 11 out beginning of Feb' 1977*